

October 31, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

Re: "In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45."

Nominee: "Robert W. Runcie, Chief Information Officer, Chicago Public Schools"

Nomination: "Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Director Representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts pursuant to section 54.501 of the Commission's rules"; or

"Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Director Representative for low-income consumers"

I am writing you in response to the Federal Communications Commission Public Notice (#DA 07-4245) dated October 12, 2007, seeking nominations for Board of Directors members of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). I am officially submitting a nomination for Robert W. Runcie, Chief Information Officer for the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (Chicago Public Schools). I am nominating Mr. Runcie for the *USAC Board of Director Representative for schools that are eligible to receive discounts pursuant to section 54.501 of the Commission's rules or USAC Board of Director Representative for low-income consumers*. I submit this nomination because I am confident that his well-rounded experience, professional expertise, and practical approach to the application of technology in government and education will serve USAC well from either standpoint (school or low-income).

Chicago Public Schools is the country's third largest school district; the urban district aims to provide a first-class education to over 420,000 children everyday. With the help of over 45,000 teachers, administrators, and support staff, Chicago Public Schools educates children, *86 percent of whom are from low-income families*.¹ Through connectivity realized by our participation in E-Rate, CIO Runcie has helped the district achieve measurable academic gains through the integration of technology into our schools. More so, Mr. Runcie has helped many of these low-income consumers bridge the digital divide by providing robust, technology access in many of their schools.

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¹ The 86% low-income is based on the Chicago Public Schools' collective E-Rate discount rate, which is based on CPS aggregate NSLP data.

As Chief Information Officer for the country's third largest school district, Mr. Runcie has a unique understanding and steadfast commitment in addressing our country's most challenging technology and education issues. This position gives Mr. Runcie a unique viewpoint simultaneously serving both educational entities and low-income consumers. More so, this perspective would bring great insight to a historically capable USAC Board of Directors.

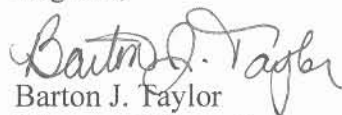
Mr. Runcie has made significant strides with bridging the Digital Divide in Chicago and has assisted Chicago Public Schools in progressing with No Child Left Behind requirements. He has also helped Chicago Public Schools equip itself with technology that has been instrumental in helping the District achieve increased performance test scores for the past three years. A few examples of his achievements include:

- Implementing the Curriculum & Instructional Management (CIM) solution to deliver electronic assessment data to instructional and administrative staff. Also, advising educational leadership on how to restructure relationships with textbook publishers to provide digital content for teachers.
- Providing professional development and leadership training for principals and teachers on how to leverage technology and data to inform instructional strategies.
- Helping to lead the development and deployment of metrics, key performance indicators, performance dashboards, and scorecards to track progress and drive excellence (helping to spearhead a \$14 million Performance Management Project).

I am confident that Mr. Runcie's background, experience, insight, and aptitude to provide connectivity to low-income citizens will be best served on USAC's Board of Directors. I hereby submit a nomination for Robert W. Runcie to be a member of the Board of Directors for USAC, representing schools eligible for discount or low-income consumers. Included with this nomination is Mr. Runcie's professional biography.

If you need further information, please contact me at bjtaylor4@cps.k12.il.us or (774) 553-3706. Thank you for your time and consideration of this nomination.

Regards,


Barton J. Taylor
Director, E-Rate Program
Chicago Public Schools

Attachments

Cc: Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
Tecora Sollers, Office of the Managing Director, Federal Communications Commission
Arne Duncan, Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Public Schools
Hill Hammock, Chief Administrative Officer, Chicago Public Schools
Robert W. Runcie, Chief Information Officer, Chicago Public Schools

ROBERT W. RUNCIE

Serving as the Chief Information Officer for the Board of Education of the City of Chicago, Bob has replaced old systems, established technology as a corporate asset, managed technology with business principles, aligned activities with the district's core strategies, and build talent to drive the successful execution of projects. Bob leads a full-time staff of 200 with a combined annual operating and capital budget of \$180 million.

Some of his key contributions are:

- Continuously driving business process improvement activities across the entire district with strategic enterprise initiatives to replace the legacy student information system and human resources and payroll systems with the IMPACT and CPS@Work programs (a combined investment of \$110 million).
- Implementing the Curriculum & Instructional Management (CIM) solution to deliver assessment data to instructional and administrative staff. Also, advising educational leadership on how to restructure relationships with textbook publishers to provide digital content in CIM to be used by teachers.
- Providing professional development and leadership training for principals and teachers on how to integrate technology and the use of data to inform instructional strategies.
- Co-Lead, with the Office of Strategic Planning, the development and deployment of metrics, key performance indicators, performance dashboards and scorecards to track progress and drive excellence (the investment in the Performance Management Project is \$14 million).
- Established an Enterprise Project Management Office, which has implemented portfolio management, project management standards and business processes to ensure the right projects are being worked on by the right people.

Bob has implemented a number of innovative infrastructure programs including:

- A VoIP project converging voice and data networks to save money (\$6 million annually), establish E911 compliance and minimize future E-Rate funding risk for telecommunications services. The total project investment is \$28 million.
- High-speed bandwidth expansion for 600 high schools (Gigabit Ethernet) and elementary schools (multi-T1s).
- Deploying an email and collaboration solution for teachers and students and avoiding \$1.5 million in infrastructure costs to comply with new federal rules for e-discovery and retention.
- Reducing the annual technology operating budget by more than 20% while increasing services and expanding infrastructure.

Bob also contributes to industry initiatives to improve the use of technology in school districts. He currently serves as the chair of the Microsoft K-12 Advisory Council and participates in the Council of Great City Schools activities involving peer reviews of other districts including LAUSD, Pittsburgh, Jefferson County (Louisville) and Memphis City Schools. He regularly hosts visits and briefings with other school districts (Orange County Public Schools in Orlando, FL; Houston Independent School District; Indianapolis Public School; Chicago Archdiocese; Australia and many others).

Prior to joining the Chicago Public Schools' Office of Technology Services in May 2003, Bob served as the president of Advanced Data Concepts, a Chicago-based management consulting and technology services company specializing in SAP and Oracle systems implementation. He has worked for companies such as Computer Sciences Corporation and Accenture. He also ran the management consulting practice for the firm of Washington, Pittman & McKeever for several years.

Bob graduated from Harvard College, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, and later received his MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. Bob serves on the board of not-for-profit organizations and participates in professional organizations. Bob resides in the South Shore area of Chicago with his wife and their three daughters, who attend the Chicago Public Schools.